Approved For Release 2009/08/19 : CIA-RDP90B01370R001201580024-9

Chrono

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
84- 1549

3 April 1984

The Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During testimony before your Committee on 27 March, the suggestion of Catholic Church opposition to the Nicaraguan armed resistance forces surfaced. I thought you might find the enclosed translation of a statement by His Excellency Obando y Bravo, Archbishop of Managua, of interest. The Archbishop reaches the conclusion that nonviolent methods of social change have no possibility of working in Nicaragua because the necessary freedom does not exist. In addition, he states that "violence is not Christian but when all other means are exhausted, one may turn to violence."

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosure

DDO/LA/ [redacted] (30 March 1984) STAT

Distribution:
Orig - Addressee (w/enc) (1600 hrs, 3 Apr ER Spec Courier)
1 - DCI (w/enc)
1 - DDCI (w/enc)
1 - Executive Reg. (w/enc)
1 - ADDO/DDO (w/enc)
1 - DDO Registry (w/enc)
1 - D/OLL (w/enc)
2 - C/LAD (w/enc)
2 - C/LA/CATF (w/enc)

Cover Approved For Release 2009/08/19 : CIA-RDP90B01370R001201580024-9

Approved For Release 2009/08/19 : CIA-RDP90B01370R001201580024-9

La Tribuna, Tegucigalpa, 25 November 1983

## Sandinista Anti-Totalitarism: Nicaraguan Church Admits Violence is Form of Salvation

Managua, November 24 (AFP) -- The Archbishop of Managua, Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo vindicated the right to turn to violence "as a last resort, once the avenue of dialogue has been exhausted" to bring about a transformation of society.

Obando y Bravo spoke this afternoon to a group of professionals, including business leaders and politicians opposed to Sandinismo, from one of Managua's hotels where he rejected the notion that methods of non-violence can work in Nicaragua "because this requires total freedom."

Obando y Bravo considered the most prominent "spiritual leader" of those who are fighting Sandinismo declared that "I have always thought that problems should try to be resolved through dialogue, looking for civilized methods that should not be tossed aside a priori but a posteriori.

Nonetheless he said that it is up to the politicians and the sociologists who should determine at what moment the avenue of dialogue has been exhausted.

The Catholic church leader was interrupted again and again by applause from the business leaders and anti-Sandinista politicians who filled the hotel meeting room.

"Violence is not Christian but when all other means are exhausted, one may turn to violence," he emphasized, after indicating that this is valid only and if the results "bring about an improvement in the political, economic and social situation."

Obando y Bravo stated that very shortly a new cannon code will be published which defines that priests who occupy government posts cannot officiate at Mass.

There are four priests in Nicaragua who hold high government posts: The Foreign Minister and the Minister of Culture are respectively the priests Miguel D'Escoto and Ernesto Cardenal. The Ambassador to the Organization of American States, Edgar Parrales and the head of the Juventud Sandinista (Sandinista Youth), Fernando Cardenal are also priests.

In referring to the so called "popular church," which supports the Nicaraguan revolutionary process, Obando y Bravo declared: "Divisions in the Church are at odds with the teachings of the Church. It is difficult to evangelize (to the people) when there are ruptures among Christians."

Approved For Release 2009/08/19 : CIA-RDP90B01370R001201580024-9

Approved For Release 2009/08/19 : CIA-RDP90B01370R001201580024-9



He also indicated that the Catholic Hierarchy is determined to fight "to save the individual man," within the collective Christian community, "so that if tomorrow he is able to exercise some authority he will act without selfishness and for the good of the community."

Approved For Release 2009/08/19 : CIA-RDP90B01370R001201580024-9